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Half an Answer

The Central Intelligence Agency's cryptic denial of involvement in Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's illegal payments in Japan answers only part of the question. To say that the CIA "has not been involved in any Lockheed bribery operations" does not get to "the heart of the matter," whatever the agency spokesman may claim. What of persistent news reports that the CIA *knew* of the payoffs? What about more recent reports that firms with long traditions of CIA dealings were conduits for the bribes? With investigations proceeding on several fronts, the pressure for full disclosure is likely to grow. Partial denials, leaving more questions unanswered than answered, will increase that pressure rather than ease it.

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